

Cerritos College
Architecture Advisory Committee Minutes
Thursday, October 4, 2018 7:30-9:00 PM
Physical Science and Technology Room PST-230

In attendance: Frank Bostrom, Janis Kent, Thomas Morales, Francisco Romero, Marsial Seda, Holly Van and Dr. Edward Rother, Cerritos College.

All committee members describe the employment outlook as very favorable for job seekers. Mr. Bostrom reported that they have to rely on job recruiters to find qualified applicants and often employers are poaching employees from their competitors. Mr. Morales reported that his firm is overwhelmed with work and cannot find those with the required degrees, experience and skills to fill their open job positions. All industry sectors were reported strong, particularly multi-family housing because of the housing shortage and available federal funding. Ms. Kent noted that "container" housing from China has become more popular due to the shortage of affordable housing although other committee members wondered how these units would comply with local codes and their long term quality. Mr. Bostrom noted that these units were popular choices for the Chinese government to provide fast and cheap housing although he would be concerned about their overall quality. Most economists are projecting two to three years of additional economic growth before a downturn although Mr. Bostrom noted that local home prices appear to have already begun to drop.

All committee members emphasized the need for students to have training in computer programs that are required for their particular area of interest in the field. Examples include computer drafting, internet research and specification writing. All students should have knowledge about basic business programs such as Adobe products and the Microsoft Office Suite. Mr. Morales stated that AutoCAD, Bluebeam and Revit Architecture are the "big three" computer programs utilized in his office. All recommended that students have a working knowledge of construction management and universal design principles. Ms. Kent emphasized that students need to have the proper social skills to enter the profession. These include a good work ethic, responsibility, self-motivation and a professional demeanor. She noted that some students have difficulty in showing up on time and often dress in shorts and flip-flops. Mr. Bostrom emphasized that students need a basic understanding of the three basic code groups; Accessibility, Green and Title 24. In particular, he suggested the college investigate offering a class in Accessibility and utilize Ms. Kent's certification in this area in the development of the class and possibly teach it.

Dr. Rother introduced three new proposed Certificate of Achievements: Architectural Computer-Aided Drafting and Design, Architectural Drafting and Design, and Architectural Practice. Mr. Morales was a supporter of these certificates, especially for students seeking internships or entry-level positions. He stated that many employers are hiring inexperienced people because Architecture schools do not teach job skills. He noted that the units required for each were appropriate, as employers do not always desire those with advanced degrees, however it was important that those with certificates also have other employable experiences in their resumes. Mr. Seda thought the Architectural Practice certificate was valuable to those who might later pursue Architecture but were rewarded with a certificate showing that they could complete a college level program and were trainable. He also stated that he noticed many local

community colleges were also offering similar certificates in their Architecture Programs. Mr. Bostrom stated it was necessary for students with these certificates to also provide a portfolio illustrating practical applications of their work as future employers will not be familiar with the work the certificates actually certified. Ms. Kent suggested the college offer a yearlong (potentially distance education) course in ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) in which the student ends up with a portfolio illustrating most skills required to work in an architectural firm. Mr. Morales agreed but noted that this might be more appropriate for those who already have architecture positions. Ultimately the committee supports adding the new certificates to the existing programs at the college.

As is always the case, the Architecture Department is looking for more Architecture Advisory Committee members. Each member will speak with their colleagues and encourage them to join the committee at Cerritos College

The next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled to take place after the 21st Annual Advisory Committee Members' Recognition Breakfast set for March 2019.

Respectively submitted,

Edward Rother